



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/534,901 | 03/23/2000 | Eric M. Foster | END00-0027-US1 | 9964 |

30743 7590 01/14/2003

WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON, P.C.
11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD
SUITE 340
RESTON, VA 20190

EXAMINER

MIRZA, ADNAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2141

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/534,901

Applicant(s)

FOSTER ET AL.

Examiner

Adnan M Mirza

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zaun et al (U.S. 2002/0024967) and further in view of Mao (U.S. 6,459,427).

As per claim 1 & 8 Zaun disclosed a method of filtering a datastream containing transport table sections, said method comprising steps of determining presence of transport table sections in a payload portion of a packet of said datastream from a packet ID field in a header of said packet (Page. 1, paragraph 0016, lines 1-12), and combining compare result values in accordance with a logic values of not match bits in a not match indication register, whereby an arbitrary length of said transport table sections are filtered by an arbitrary number of filters having arbitrary filter functions (Page. 3, paragraph 0030).

Zaun failed to disclosed filtering a portion of said transport table sections in accordance with a mask which defines a filter function and a logic state of a not match bit to provide a compare result, selecting a next mask and a portion of said transport table sections in accordance with a filter ID. In the same field of endeavor Mao disclosed Basically the HTML pages (URLs) and their control map information are either mapped directly onto the sections of the MPEG-2 transport stream or mapped through an intermediate layer such as UDP/IP and then encapsulated in the sections of the MPEG-2 transport stream. Multiple sections form a table. Each table can

Art Unit: 2141

be separated and filtered by the set top decoder through tableID and /or table ID_extensions fields. The MPEG-2 table structure is segmented and carried over MPEG-2 transport packets, which can be filtered through the PID (packetID) by the decoder (col. 7, lines 65-67 & col. 8, lines 1-7).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated disclosed filtering a portion of said transport table sections in accordance with a mask which defines a filter function and a logic state of a not match bit to provide a compare result, selecting a next mask and a portion of said transport table sections in accordance with a filter ID as taught by Mao in the method of Zaun to optimize bandwidth by discarding unwanted Packets or sections of tables.

3. As per claims 2 & 9 Zaun disclosed wherein said filter ID is implemented in a control word (Page. 3, paragraph 0030, lines 5-7).
4. As per claims 3 & 10 Zaun disclosed wherein said Filter ID includes a section filter ID and a next filter ID (Page. 3, Paragraph 0025, lines 16-24).
5. As per claims 4 & 11 Zaun disclosed wherein said combining step includes ANDing or ORing compare result values of a bit or over a group of bits in accordance with logic values of not match bits corresponding to sad bit or group of bits (Page. 3, Paragraph 0030).
6. As per claims 5 & 12 Zaun disclosed wherein said combining step further includes the step of accumulating a match word over a plurality of blocks of filtered data (Page. 3, Paragraph 0031).
7. As per claims 6 & 13 Zaun disclosed wherein said step of accumulating a matchword is performed by ANDing a current matchword bit with a corresponding bit of a previous

Art Unit: 2141

matchword if the filtering applied to the current block is positive or mixed filtering, and ORing a current matchword bit with a corresponding bit of a previous matchword if the filtering applied to the current block is negative filtering in accordance with said contents of said not match indication register (Page. 3, Paragraph 0030).

8. As per claims 7 & 14 Zaun disclosed wherein said step of accumulating a matchword is performed in accordance with logic functions specified by at least one extra bit (Page. 3, Paragraph 0031).

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Adnan Mirza whose telephone number is (703)-305-4633.

10. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (703)-308-5221. The fax for this group is (703)-746-7239.

11. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)-746-7239 (For Status Inquiries, Informal or Draft Communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT");

(703)-746-7239 (For Official Communications Intended for entry, please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE"),

Art Unit: 2141

(703)-746-7238 (For After Final Communications).

12. Any Inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900.

Any response to a final action should be mailed to:

BOX AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C.20231

Or faxed to:

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 4th Floor Receptionist, Crystal Park II,
2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

AM

Adnan Mirza

Examiner


DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100